



**Department of
Public Safety**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Thomas J. Stickrath, Director

November 22, 2019

Lucy Parsons Labs
MuckRock
Via email: 82724-76421538@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Lucy Parsons Labs,

You submitted a public records request in an email received on November 1, 2019 to the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS). Specifically, you requested records for “all search warrants, applications for search warrants, cancellations, and authorization for search warrants between 2012 to the date of processing this request...” Furthermore, you stated that the records you sought “are likely available in a database, or in some query-able format.”

This request is overly broad. Ohio law provides that a requester has a duty to identify the records sought with sufficient clarity. *State ex rel. Dillery v. Icsman* (2001), 92 Ohio St.3d 312, 314. Please note that your request does not satisfy the requirements of Ohio public records law that a request must be specific and particularly describe what is being sought from the public office. *State ex rel. Zauderer v. Joseph* (1989), 62 Ohio App.3d 752, at 756. This request also constitutes a complete duplication of records and Ohio public records cases have established that public records requests must be more narrowly tailored than a blanket request for all documents of a certain type. *State ex rel. Bristow v. Baxter*, 2018-Ohio-1973, ¶9-13; *See State ex rel. Glasgow v. Jones*, 119 Ohio St.3d 391, 2008-Ohio-4788, ¶ 19.

Additionally, please note that DPS does not utilize a database for tracking search warrants. Search warrants are issued by the local court with jurisdiction and the search warrant is returned to the court after it has been performed.

Please contact me with any questions and should you want to clarify or narrow your public records request. Furthermore, you may want to review DPS records retention schedules which can be found at <https://apps.das.ohio.gov/rims/Search/PublicSearch.asp> which may assist you in your request.

Sincerely,

Alex S. Armitage
Associate Legal Counsel